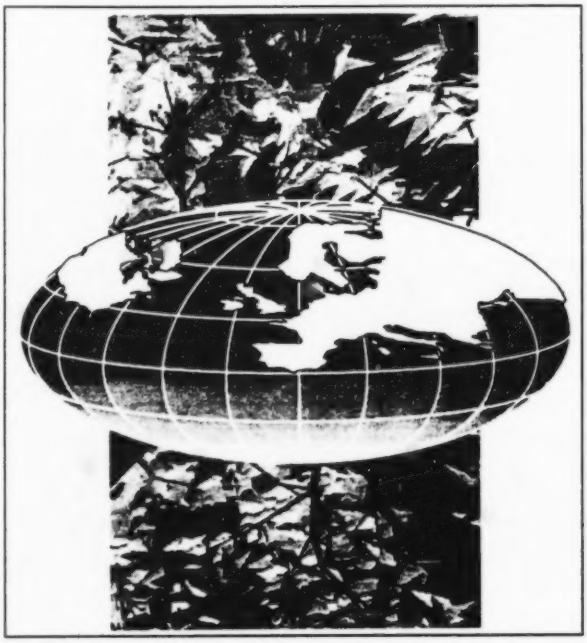
ECE Highlights

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE No. 25 September 1995

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

ECE COORDINATES PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS

Sofia, Bulgaria, 23 to 25 October 1995



Environment Ministers from all ECE member countries will meet from 23 to 25 October in Sofia, Bulgaria, to take further steps in the "Environment for Europe" process. Ministers of Finance and Industry and representatives from some OECD countries which are not members of the ECE, namely Australia, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand, are also expected to attend this Conference.

The first substantive part of the Conference, under the theme "Partners in Cooperation", will discuss the progress made in national and international implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Central and Eastern Europe: business, industry and environment interrelationships; financing environmental improvements; the updating of existing priorities and the setting of new ones.

The second part will review the assessment of the state of the European environment and discuss action in the fields of sustainable management of natural resources; the conservation of biological and landscape diversity and soil; ways to move away from unsustainable production and consumption patterns; and public information and participation. Representatives of industry and the business community will participate in discussions related to the environment and the economy.

The "Environment for Europe" Process

The Environment for Europe process is an umbrella concept which encompasses a range of actions, initiatives and studies, conducted by many national and international organizations and institutions. It aims at generating environmental action and solidarity in the ECE region and at achieving progress in the coordination of efforts, encouraging communication between parties, and collecting and disseminating information. Several of these initiatives and studies themselves are cooperative efforts of various organizations and institutions.

The Dobris Conference

The process started in 1991, when the Environment Ministers of 34 European countries, the United States, Brazil, Japan, various UN bodies, governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions met at Dobris, a castle near Prague. The Dobris Conference took stock of the state of the environment in Europe and developed a concept of stronger cooperation to protect and improve the environment. An Environmental Programme for Europe was commissioned in the light of an Environment report by the Commission of the European

Communities, in cooperation with the ECE and other international organizations.

The Lucerne Conference

The second Ministerial Conference of "Environment for Europe", held at Lucerne, Switzerland in April 1993, adopted the Environmental Action Programme (EAP) for central and eastern Europe to reduce the gap between a "two-speed" Europe. To help countries in central and eastern Europe to speed up the improvement of their environmental situation, the Ministers established a Task Force to implement the EAP by focusing on policy reforms and institutional strengthening and a Project Preparation Committee (PPC) focusing on investments. Pursuant to the decisions of the Lucerne Conference, the ECE is developing elements for a Long-term Environmental Programme for Europe based on the State of the Environment (Dobris) report.

Preparations for Sofia

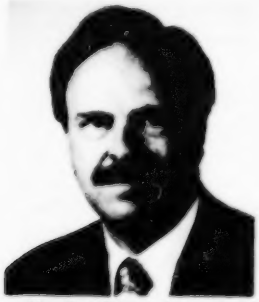
The Lucerne Conference accepted the offer of Bulgaria to host the next Ministerial Conference, "Environment for Europe", in Sofia in October 1995. To oversee the follow-up to the Lucerne Conference and the substantive preparation of the next Conference, it was decided to establish a central coordinating body within the ECE, the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials, in which the European Commission, other international institutions and organizations, financial institutions and the international informal sector organizations active in the ECE region are represented.

Since 1994, the Working Group has been reviewing progress made in various international activities relative to the "Environment for Europe" process, in particular those of the Task Force on EAP, the PPC and the Council of Europe. The Senior Governmental Officials agreed upon a draft agenda for the Conference and coordinated the preparation of specific documents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New ECE Appointments

Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division



Mr. Kaj-Ole Johannes Bärlund

Mr. Kaj-Ole Johannes Bärlund, from Finland, has been appointed Director of the ECE Environment and Human Settlements Division. He holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. (Economics) degrees from the Svenska Handelshögskola in Finland. Mr. Bärlund has held numerous positions in the Finnish Government, including that of Minister of the Environment from 1987 to 1991. Before joining the ECE, he was the Director General of the Finnish National Board of Waters and Environment from 1991 to 1995. As a member of Parliament, Mr. Bärlund served on various committees, including those of Finance, Communications and Agriculture. Between 1972 and 1979, he worked as Legislative Secretary at the Ministry of Justice. As Editor of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Oy Yle Ab) and as Information Officer of the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK), in 1972 Mr. Bärlund received the State Award for Public Information.

Director of the Energy Division

Mr. George Kowalski

Mr. George Kowalski, a national of Canada, was recently appointed Director of the ECE Energy Division. Mr. Kowalski has held various positions with the government of Canada and international organizations. He was acting Director General and Senior Economic Advisor in the Canadian Department of Environment between 1991 and 1995, responsible for the formulation of strategic and policy positions in the environmental field. Prior to that, from 1985 to 1991, he was Chief Economist at the International Energy Agency, OECD, in Paris. Between 1975 and 1985, Mr. Kowalski held various positions with the Canadian Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in the field of energy and mineral policy. His last position with the Department of Energy was that of Director responsible for assessing and providing recommendations regarding governmental fiscal support for private-sector investment proposals in major oil and gas projects. Mr. Kowalski holds a B. Eng. degree from McGill University, Montreal, and M.B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. (Economics) degrees from Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.

The Regional Commissions' Activities for Promoting Regional Cooperation and Operational Activities for Development

Regional cooperation

Speaking to the substantive session of The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), held at Geneva from 4 to 28 July 1995, Mr. Yves Berthelot, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and acting coordinator of the five regional commissions of the United Nations — ESCAP, ECLAC, ECA, ESCWA and ECE — highlighted the legislative processes and the work of the regional commissions. He said that the draft resolutions and decisions adopted by the regional commissions had at least four emerging, common and mutually reinforcing trends: ongoing reforms and restructuring; increasing involvement with major global United Nations conferences; work programmes looking ahead to the needs of the coun-

tries into the next century; and increased focus on regional coordination.

He noted that since 1990 ECE had carried out considerable redeployment around five priority areas: environment, transport, trade facilitation, economic analysis and statistics. In addition, the Commission had adopted a resolution to convene its fifty-second jubilee session in 1997 with a view to adopting a declaration on strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe which would define strategic directions of future activities of the ECE in response to the new realities in that region. The initiative of the Secretary-General to strengthen coordination arrangements at the regional level would also lead to greater effectiveness of the programme.

The Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions felt that international migration issues in many parts of the world, especially in the developing regions, were still inadequately documented and understood. They proposed that the Council encourage the regional commissions to cooperate on improving information and knowledge on international migration and its economic and social causes and consequences.

Operational activities for development

At the ECOSOC session, Mr. Berthelot also presented aspects of operational activities of the United Nations in their regional dimension. He pointed out that to date all five regional commissions together account for less than five per cent of technical assistance provided by the United Nations system. However, the significance of their contributions extended far beyond this figure in so far as they play a catalytic role in facilitating the exchange of experience, knowledge and skills from more developed to less developed member countries. They also enable promotion of tripartite cooperation involving the developing countries in various stages of development and the developed countries. Furthermore, the regional commissions' involvement in operational activities now include the countries in transition as well, whose needs call for priority attention. In addition, the regional commissions have been playing an increasingly active role in enabling the development of norms, standards, conventions and methodologies. These various roles make them a natural partner in the field of operational activities for development.

Speaking on the regional commissions' follow-up to United Nations global conferences, the Executive Secretary felt that their contribution should be operationally linked to enable both vertical and horizontal coordination at the regional level. All regional commissions had been increasing their cooperation with subregional economic integration groupings in their respective regions. The expertise accumulated in a given regional commission could be of great help to others. He cited examples where ECLAC and ECA, on the initiative of several member governments, intend to meet to exchange experiences. ECE, ESCWA and ECA are preparing joint activities in the Mediterranean area and ECE and ESCAP join their efforts in central Asia.

Round-table Discussion — "Five years of reforms in countries in transition: assessment and prospects"

Round-table discussions on essential aspects of economic development and policy issues in Europe and North America have been regularly organized since 1990 under the aegis of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (SEA), a Principal Subsidiary Body of the Economic Commission for Europe. Although integrated into the annual session of the SEA, round-tables take place outside the formal session and are organized as a public event to which the diplomatic community, the press and interested public are invited.

The subject of this year's discussion was "Five years of reforms in countries in transition: assessment and prospects". Given the role of the ECE as a forum for exchanges of views between industrialized countries of Europe and North America and the transition economies of central and eastern Europe and the CIS, special attention was devoted to both domestic and international aspects of the reform process, including the integration of transition countries into the European and world economy.

The panellists were: Mr. Horst Bockelmann, former Head of the Monetary and Economic Department, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel; Mr. Mircea Cosea, Minister of State, President of the Council for Coordination, Strategy and Economic Reform, Romania; Mr. Zdenek Drabek, Counsellor, Economic Research and Analysis Division, World Trade Organization (WTO); Mr. Andras Inotai, General Director, Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; and Mrs. Tamara N. Solyanik, Deputy Head of the Department of Economic Development Strategy, Ministry of Economy, Ukraine. The Executive Secretary of the ECE, Mr. Yves Berthelot, acted as moderator.

After five years of reforms, although some progress had been made in a number of countries, the economic achievements remained fragile in most of the economies in transition. On the positive side the panellists noted that the policies which had been conducted so far had met with undeniable success in some areas. The sharp decline in production had been stopped in many countries and a process of recovery was now well underway. Although still too high, inflation appeared to be in most cases under control. Following the demise of the CMEA trading system, foreign trade had been successfully reoriented towards western Europe. However, the social costs, in terms of unemployment and deteriorating living standards, of this relatively successful transformation had been generally too high. This had had a negative impact on the political support for the transition process and could endanger its sustainability.

Considering prospects for a sustained recovery, participants in the round-table stressed that the success of the reform process, including further progress in macroeconomic stabilization, would now depend on the establishment of adequate microeconomic foundations. Accordingly, in the future, as more attention will be given to institutional transformation, stabilization policies would have to be thought about in conjunction with structural policies. One of the aims of these new policies would be to create proper conditions for a recovery of investment which was regarded by all participants as a

basic prerequisite for sustained economic growth. The revival of investment will require a significant increase in domestic savings as well as substantial foreign resource inflows, particularly in the form of foreign direct investment and unilateral transfers.

OFF THE PRESS

UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Ninth Revised Edition of the "Orange Book"

The "UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" generally known as the "Orange Book" has become a must for all public authorities, carriers and consigners handling substances which are hazardous for people and the environment. During the last 40 years the Recommendations have become the generally acknowledged source of technical provisions which are implemented worldwide. Many Governments have based their national legislation on these Recommendations and their implementation is guaranteed through international conventions regulating all modes of transport: road, rail, inland waterways, air and maritime shipping.

All dangerous substances and articles most commonly carried are listed in the Orange Book. They are divided into nine classes: Explosives (Class 1); Gases (2): Flammable liquids (3); Flammable solids (4); Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides (5); Toxic and infectious substances (6); Radioactive material (7); Corrosive substances (8); and Miscellaneous dangerous substances and articles. The Orange Book contains provisions for packing dangerous goods, marking and labelling packages, placarding transport units, and shipping documentation. It also includes provisions for the construction of packagings, intermediate bulk containers, multimodal tank-containers, as well as for their testing and their approval.

The ninth revised edition of the Orange Book has just been published in English. It will, at a later stage, be available in all United Nations' official languages. The Orange Book is supplemented by a "Manual of Texts and Criteria" for the classification of goods to be transported. A second revised edition of this Manual will be issued soon.

The Recommendations are prepared by the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is serviced by the secretariat of the ECE. The ECE is also responsible for the elaboration of legal instruments regulating the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways in its region.

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Ninth revised edition, Sales No. E.95.VIII.1, Price US$ 95.00. Also available on diskette, Sales No. E.94.VIII.2, Price US$ 250.

ECE Forecasts New Slowdown in World Coal Growth

The expected growth of world coal demand during the next 15 years will be weaker than anticipated. Europe's import demand is also expected to decrease, despite declining coal production in Europe. These forecasts have been reported in a recent ECE study "World Coal Trade up to the Year 2010". European hard coal demand is estimated to rise by about 70 million tonnes (Mt.) from 1990 to 2010, while hard coal production is likely to fall by 220 Mt. The reasons are mainly due to industrial restructuring, technological change implying increased energy efficiency and a continuous switch to other fuels such as gas and oil. The economic transition in central and eastern European countries will also lead to restructuring of their production towards industries with less coal input. By the year 2000, global coal trade is expected to reach 515 Mt. and by 2010 it may grow to 566 Mt. as compared to 400 Mt. in 1990. This represents an annual growth rate of 2.7% in the 1990s and a significant slowing down to one per cent during the first decade of the next century.

Asia will probably replace Europe as the world's largest coal consuming and importing region. Its increasing demand will be met by its own production and trade within Asia and imports mainly from Australia.

World Coal Trade up to the Year 2000 — ECE/ENERGY/WP.1/GE.2/R.21, available from ECE Energy Division, United Nations, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, FAX + 41 22 917 0038 or 917 0036.

World Coal Trade up to the Year 2010

(Millions of tonnes (Mt.))

	Demand		*Production*		*Imports*		*Exports*	
	1990	*2010*	*1990*	*2010*	*1990*	*2010*	*1990*	*2010*
ECE Region	1 821	1 798	1 830	1 771	199	278	208	251
Western Europe	355	317	219	106	157	212	11	1
Eastern Europe	715	574	719	610	26	38	70	75
North America	751	907	891	1 054	17	28	127	175
World	3 508	3 982	3 549	3 994	396	566	395	578

Women in the ECE Region: A Call for Action

New publication examines situation of women in Europe, North America, Central Asia and Israel

An assessment of the situation of women in the ECE region—the first ever to bring together government viewpoints and data on key aspects of women's lives—was published by the ECE as a contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. It focuses on the human rights of women; women and the economy; employment, education and health; and women in public life, both for the region as a whole and for each of the Commission's 55 member States.

Examining progress and setbacks in the advancement of women since 1985, the book finds that there are many positive achievements, including stronger anti-discriminatory legislation, efforts to reconcile work and family responsibilities, and new or revitalized government machineries for women's issues. Other findings, however, show some negative trends, ranging from unemployment and poverty to uneven political participation and violations of the human rights of women.

The publication is based on government statements at the ECE regional preparatory meeting for the Beijing Conference, held at Vienna in October 1994, and on reports prepared for the meeting by the Commission. A large part of the book is devoted to the Regional Platform for Action adopted at Vienna, which provided significant input to the Global Platform for Action which was debated at Beijing. Among the publication's findings:

— Women in the countries in transition are undergoing an extraordinary social crisis, reflected in increasing mortality, declining birth rates, unemployment, poverty and domestic violence.

— Women's political participation in the region, with the exception of Scandinavia, is extremely low; in western Europe, it has declined over the past 10 years, although most of eastern and central Europe has shown signs of recovery after falling sharply when party quotas were abolished.

— While the number of working women in the region is climbing and some have access to managerial positions, they are increasingly concentrated in low-paid, precarious jobs, and their remuneration has actually dropped since the 1980s.

ECE has published two related volumes on the occasion of the Beijing Conference: *Women and Men in Europe and North America 1995*, in collaboration with Statistics Sweden; and *Time Use of Women in Europe and North America*, in cooperation with INSTRAW.

Women in the ECE Region: A Call for Action. Highlights of the ECE High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.17, Price US$ 36.00.

Women and Men in Europe and North America

A Compendium of Gender-related Statistics reveals Progress and Problems of Equity

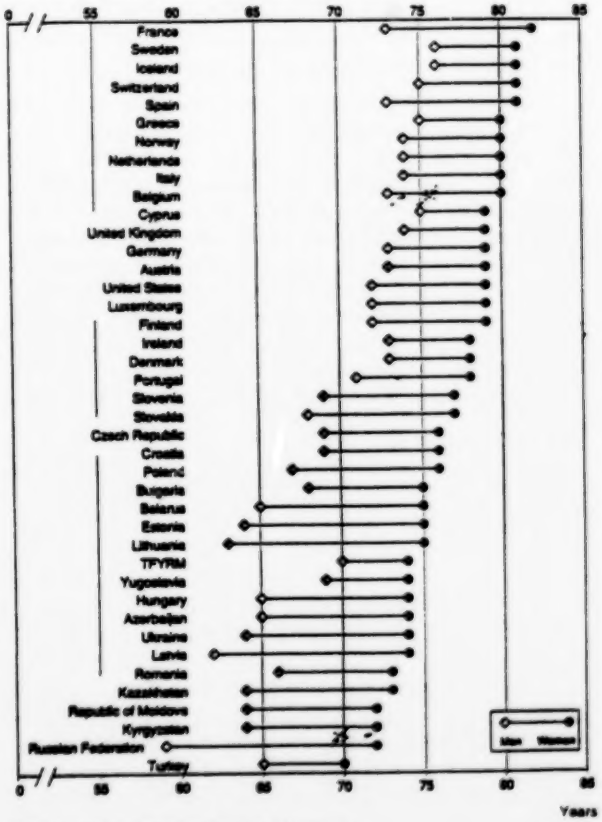
In all member countries of the ECE, women live longer than men, but their participation in economic and political decision-making lags behind in most of the region. With the exception of the Nordic countries and the Netherlands, female members of parliaments account for less than 30 per cent in all and even less than 10 per cent in half of the reporting countries. Azerbaijan and Turkey report the record low: only two per cent of their parliamentarians are women. Women are experiencing labour-related poverty to a greater extent than men. Exclusion from the labour market, unemployment and working in low-paid jobs are still more typical for women than for men. These are some of the findings which appear in a statistical compendium "Women and Men in Europe and North America" prepared as a contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women on behalf of the ECE by Statistics Sweden. The publication was financially supported by the United Nations Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

Of the 55 ECE member countries, 43 have responded to the enquiries made for this first compendium of

Women and Men in Europe and North America

Average life expectancy at birth by country around 1993

Countries ranked by women's average life expectancy at birth



TFYRM: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

gender-related statistics ever compiled for the whole ECE region. It contains data on population and households, health, paid and unpaid work, income and education, decision-making and political representation, marital status and divorce, abortion, crime and other social phenomena affecting the life conditions of women and men.

Women and Men in Europe and North America 1995, ISBN 92-1-100698-8, Price US$ 38.00.

Foreign Investment in Romania Reaches Record High of US$ 1,227.3 Million

At the end of the first quarter of 1995, the value of foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments in Romania had reached US$ 1,227.3 million as compared with US$ 651.9 million twelve months earlier. West European market economies constituted the major source region of foreign investment: at the end of 1994 as much as 60 per cent of the total value of committed foreign capital came from Western Europe, of which 50 per cent from European Union member States. At the same time, during 1994, commitments of investors from developing countries increased considerably, and in January 1995 amounted to about 20 per cent of the total. This subject is discussed in the latest edition of *East-West Investment News*, No. 2, Summer 1995. In the second part of its survey of large foreign investment projects exceeding US$ 10 million committed in transition economies of eastern and central Europe during the late 1980s to 1994, the newsletter shows that about a quarter of all foreign investment to be effected during the first stages of project implementation was committed in joint ventures, while one third went to equity stake acquisitions. The share of the latter was particularly high during 1993-94, when privatization programmes in several transition economies of the region gained momentum.

This issue of Investment News also comments upon the new foreign investment law in Kazakhstan enacted in December 1994 which provides foreign investors with wider guarantees against nationalization, expropriation and possible injurious changes in legislation. At the same time, it brings the treatment of foreign investors closer to the national regime. The issue further reviews foreign investment-related tax regulations in the Russian Federation, privatization law and the State privatization programme in Bulgaria, as well as relevant foreign trade privatization, currency and tax regulations in Moldova, Poland, Lithuania, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Belarus.

East-West Investment News, No. 2, Summer 1995, Annual subscription US$ 80.00. Available at the Sales Section, United Nations, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10.

Forest Condition in Europe: 26.4% of Trees Damaged

In 1994, 26.4% of trees observed in a transnational survey were defoliated by more than 25% and were thus classified as damaged, according to the recent report on Forest Condition in Europe by the European Commission and the ECE. The respective value in 1991 was 22.2%, in 1992, 23.5% and in 1993, 22.6%. The report presents the results of national and transnational crown-condition surveys from 32 European countries, referring to 29,739 sample plots with 648,425 trees. The plots cover about 178.4 million hectares of forests. The results of the 1994 survey indicate that forest damage continues to be a serious problem in Europe, as a substantial proportion of the trees were defoliated and/or discoloured. Although there were some improvements in individual countries, forest condition in Europe in general has deteriorated. Broadleaves are still in a slightly better condition than conifers; 24.3% of all broadleaves and 28% of all conifers were found to be damaged in 1994. The most important probable causes of the observed defoliation and discoloration were adverse weather conditions, particularly drought and heat, as well as insects, fungi, game, man-made, air pollution and forest fire.

Forest Condition in Europe: Executive Report on the results of the 1994 Survey, EB.AIR/WG.1/R.109

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

General

Annual Report of the Economic Commission for Europe, (27 April 1994-11 April 1995), E/1995/36, E/ECE/1324

Agriculture and Timber

Forest Products Prices – 1992-1994, Timber Bulletin – Vol. XLVII (1994), No. 1 – ECE/TIM/Bull/1, ISSN 0259-4323

Forest Fire Statistics – 1991-1993, Timber Bulletin – Vol. XLVII (1994), No. 4 – ECE/TIM/BULL/47/4, ISSN 0259-4323

Timber Committee Yearbook 1994, ECE/TIM/INF/2

UN-ECE/FAO Timber and Forest Discussion Papers

— *Productivity in Finnish Forestry*, ECE/TIM/DP/1

— *Non-Wood Benefits in Forestry: A Survey of Valuation Studies*, ECE/TIM/DP/2

— *Information Systems in Forestry: A Brief Overview*, ECE/TIM/DP/3

Prices of Agricultural Products and Selected Inputs in Europe and North America, 1992-1993, Annual ECE/FAO Price Review No. 43 – ECE/AGRI/126, Sales No. E.94.II.E.21, US$ 36.00

Energy

Gas Rates – Fundamentals and Practices, ECE Gas Centre Series, Sales No. GV.E.95.0.1, US$ 75.00

Manual on Financial Engineering: Sources of Finance for Energy Efficiency Projects, ENERGY/WP.4/R.1

Manual on Business Planning: How to Construct a Business Plan for Energy Efficiency Projects, ENERGY/WP.4/R.2

Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe and North America, Sales No. E/F/R.II.E.5, US$ 35.00

Annual Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe and North America, 1995, Sales No. E/F/R.95II.E.4, US$ 35.00

Environment

Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes, ECE/EB.AIR/21 Rev.1

Industry and Technology

Rehabilitation Engineering, Review publication prepared for the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995), ECE/ENG. AUT/55, Sales No. E.94.II.E.17, US$ 25.00

Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe and North America – 1990-1993, Sales No. E/F/R.95.II.E.11, US$ 35.00

Transport

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America – 1995, Sales No. E/F/R.95.II.E.9, US$ 60.00

WHERE TO ORDER

The publications listed with sales prices may be ordered from: **United Nations Bookshop, Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland** and a number of bookstores in the ECE region. Send cheque or money order in US dollars made payable to: UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS.

Those publications listed without a sales price may be obtained from the Information Officer, Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAO/ECE/ILO Forestry Seminar in British Columbia, Canada

Exploring multiple use and ecosystem management: from policy to operational practice
9 to 15 September 1995

A seminar will be held at Prince George, B.C. Canada, from 9 to 15 September 1995, under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training, in cooperation with the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia. The event will be supported by the Northern Forest Products Association and the University of Northern British Columbia.

Five themes will be addressed at the meeting: ecology and forest practice; socio-economic considerations; codes of forest practice; planning and monitoring; and forest practices, policy and science. There will be keynote addresses by Dr. Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, USDA Forest Service, and Dr. Louise Fortman, Professor of natural resource sociology, University of California, Berkeley. Working group discussions on the five themes, field tours and optional post-seminar tours are also included in the programme. The seminar is intended to benefit industry, government and private forest managers; staff engaged in forest research and extension; policy makers in government agencies; forestry-based communities; forestry schools, vocational training, and extension centres; and non-governmental organizations.

Low- and Non-waste Technology in Raw Material Processing

12 to 15 September 1995

The complex utilization of raw materials using advanced low- and non-waste process technologies will be discussed at the ECE seminar in Moscow, from 12 to 15 September 1995. Co-sponsored by the Ministry of Industry of the Russian Federation, this seminar is aimed at introducing clean production technology in the chemical industry throughout the ECE region. Complex utilization means the re-use of by-products of one processing step at another stage in the same or an associated plant. Participants will be informed about technologies for specific production applications proposed by engineering firms. Speakers will include representatives of firms practising clean technology, offering it to others or proposing new developments in the area. A session will be devoted to specific production areas, such as aromatic hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents, polymers, speciality chemicals (additives, pesticides, pharmaceutical intermediates, etc.), detergents, inorganic chemicals, and others, and will be concluded with a round-table discussion on the future needs of these technologies.

Seminar on Attracting Private Investment for Large-Scale Infrastructure Projects in the Transition Economies

13 November 1995

The transport, telecommunications, energy and water infrastructures are priorities for the economies of central and eastern Europe in order to improve their growth prospects, increase trade and integrate their economies into world markets. Governments in these economies have difficulties in financing large-scale infrastructure projects. The multilateral lending agencies, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB) provide financial backing for infrastructure projects in the transition economies. However, this lending will fall short of requirements. Transition economies have thus a strong interest in attracting private-sector investment to help in the modernization of their infrastructures. The ECE will convene a seminar on this topic on Monday, 13 November 1995 at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. The seminar will inform Governments in transition economies of project finance schemes utilizing private capital in the modernization of

lems which have to be addressed, inform foreign enterprises of the opportunities for private-sector infrastructure projects in the countries of central and eastern Europe; identify the opportunities for domestic bankers and suppliers in the transition economies in participating in these new project finance schemes; and identify the area of support, in terms of legal advice or model contracts, which the ECE's group of legal experts can provide to facilitate these projects.

ECE CALENDAR 1995

SELECTED EVENTS

September

4-6	Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)
4-6	Preparatory Committee of the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment
4-6	Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe (Bucharest, Romania)
11	ECE/OECD/Eurostat Joint Programme Review
11-15	Seminar on the Prevention and Control of Groundwater Pollution from the Storage of Chemicals and from Waste Disposal (Madrid, Spain)
12-15	Seminar on the Complex Utilization of Raw Materials using Low- and Non-waste Process Technologies (Moscow, Russian Federation)
18-20	COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (followed by a Study Tour in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)
25-29	Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
27-29	Working Party on the Chemical Industry

October

2-6	Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Berne, Switzerland)
16-18	Principal Working Party on Rail Transport
18-20	Working Party on Coal
19-20	Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975
19-20	Seminar on National Experiences with the Introduction of ISIC Revision 3 and NACE Revision 1
23-27	Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
24-26	Principal Working Party on Inland Water Transport
24-27	Ad Hoc Meeting on Business Opportunities in Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones (Zaslavl Belarus)
25-27	Working Party on Steel
30-1 Nov.	Principal Working Party on Road Transport

November

1-3	Working Party on Transport Statistics
7-9	COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
6-10	Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development
13-16	TIMBER COMMITTEE
20-23	COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
20-24	Preparatory Committee of the 1996 Regional Conference on Transport and Environment
28-1 Dec.	Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

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ECE Highlights provides a round-up of news and information on major ECE events and publications and is available free of charge from the Information Officer.

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